

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request from The Children's Education Center of the Islands to be exempted from Special Event Fees for their 2009 Spring Festival to be held at Community Park (2221 Periwinkle Way) on April 11, 2009. (\$50 Application Fee and \$100 Refundable Security Deposit paid by applicant on 7/29/08 & fees requested to be waived and refunded – total approximately \$1,045



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 3, 2008
TO: Judith A. Zimomra, City Manager
FROM: Crystal J. Mansell, Executive Asst. to City Manager *Mansell*

SUBJECT: Children's Spring Festival – Request for Waiver of Special Event Fees

On December 5, 2006, Sanibel City Council adopted Ordinance 06-016, which updated the City's regulatory system for special events permits and established fees which became effective January 1, 2007. On May 6, 2008, City Council adopted Resolution 08-053 (attached), which provided for fees for the rental of City properties and parks.

On July 29, 2008, the City of Sanibel received an application from the Children's Education Center of the Islands, accompanied by a check in the amount of \$150 to cover the \$50 application fee and the \$100 refundable deposit for their annual Children's Spring Festival. I called the applicant, Ms. Jana Yates, and informed her of the additional monies owed for park rental, equipment rental and Police services.

On August 25, 2008, the City of Sanibel received a letter from Mr. John Yates requesting Council waive all current and future Special Event Fees for the annual Children's Spring Festival.

The estimated total Special Event Fees for the Children's Spring Festival are as follows:

Application Fee (Sanibel Resident/Business)	\$50
Refundable Deposit	\$100
Community Park Rental	\$475
Police Services (Public Safety @ Crosswalk)	\$140 (For first 3-hours)
Barricade Rentals (Dunlop Road-No Parking East Side Only)	\$60
Safety Fencing Rental (Along Shared-Use Path & Games)	\$120
Safety Fencing Refundable Deposit	\$40
Electrical Outlets (6 - 110 outlets)	\$60
TOTAL	\$1,045

Please let me know if you require additional information. Thank you.

August 25, 2008

Ms. Judy Zimomra
City Manager
City of Sanibel
800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957

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CITY OF SANIBEL
ADMIN./LEGIS.

Dear Miss Judy:

I hope this letter finds you well, prosperous, and in good spirits.

I am an advocate of and volunteer for The Children's Education Center of the Islands. As you are aware, the Children's Center is a non-profit, tax-exempt, parent-owned cooperative. The pre-school was established in 1974 to serve the educational needs of the children of Sanibel families and the children of parents who are employed on Sanibel, as well. All funds used to operate the school and provide a quality education for our pre-school age children are derived from four sources: tuition, fund-raisers, grants, and donations. Families who cannot afford the tuition are allowed to apply for a scholarship to provide their children with an equal opportunity to attend the Children's Education Center and receive a desirable, high quality pre-school education.

Each Spring, for the past 15 years, the Children's Education Center has held their annual Spring Festival. The Festival is held for two very important reasons. The first is to give back to the Sanibel community by providing an exciting and fun filled event for the children and families of our residents and guests. The second reason is to generate some of the necessary capital to fund the scholarship program at the school. Months of planning and preparation are devoted to the Festival each year. The success of the Spring Festival is produced only through the donation of many hours of staff and volunteer time.

The availability of scholarship money to help those children in need is directly dependent upon the success of the Spring Festival. Therefore, any expenditure incurred to produce the Spring Festival is carefully evaluated and assessed each year with regard to the effect it may have on the overall scholarship fund. Keeping costs to a minimum while still providing a quality festival is of the utmost importance.

Focusing on this need to minimize costs, I would like to address the Sanibel Special Events-Schedule Of Fees. If the tax exempt, non-profit Children's Education Center were exempt from these Special Events fees, additional funds

in the amount of the fees could be added to the school's general scholarship fund.

It has been brought to my attention that the most affluent, non-profit, tax exempt organization on Sanibel is located on city property and is totally subsidized by the city. Although this organization has amassed a multimillion dollar endowment fund, the city continues to pay their power bill, their water bill, their sewer bill, and maintain the grounds with city employees. In addition, the city allows the organization to occupy city property without paying any rent.

If the city can do so much for so few, it appears to me that the City of Sanibel can well afford to exempt the Children's Education of the Islands from all current and future Special Events Fees.

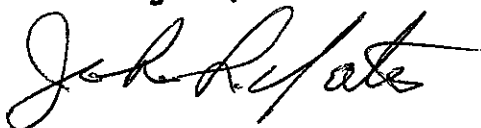
Since the Children's Education Center parent-cooperative owns their property, rent is not an expense. However, should the City of Sanibel decide to pay all of our utility bills, as well, it would be greatly appreciated and would provide real value to the future of our community.

The Children's Education Center of the Islands is currently "celebrating 35 years of dedication to education". During these 35 years, a majority of Sanibel residents and Business owners have attended the school, or their children have attended, or their grandchildren have attended. The Children's Education Center is very much an integral part of our community and provides an excellent head start in education to all who attend.

I ask you and the appropriate City personnel to take ten minutes of your time to watch the enclosed DVD of the C.E.C.I. graduation class of 2008 and decide which child you would deny a scholarship in order for us to pay the City Special Events Fees.

I await your decision and reply. Thank you.

Best regards,



John L. Yates

Volunteer-The Children's Education Center of the Islands
350 Casa Ybel Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957